



KARO ECHO Newsletter

KARO ECHO

Serving the communities
of El Cerrito and
Kensington, California

Web: www.karoecho.net

Facebook:
[KARO ECHO facebook](#)

Email: info@karoecho.net

Important Frequencies

KE Primary: 146.415 MHz
Weekly Net, Thurs. 1900

KE Secondary: 146.475 MHz

4Cs Repeater: 145.110 MHz
(TX down 600 with PL 82.5)

Monthly Meetings

In-person meetings

2nd Monday of each month
7:00 pm

(online via Zoom for now)

Arlington Park Clubhouse,
1120 Arlington Blvd,
El Cerrito, CA

The next meetings are:

Aug 9th, 2021

Aug 13th, 2021

Meeting minutes are on
the website in the past
events page.

What's New

KARO ECHO Monthly Meeting, Aug 9th, 1900 — **ONLINE VIA ZOOM**

The monthly KARO ECHO meeting will be held using the Zoom online meeting app, at the usual time, 1900, Monday Aug 9th. Look for the link to join in a KARO ECHO email from Howdy KE6BEE. The meeting will focus on preparing for the Fall SET and will have a related training exercise. [Full agenda link](#)

KARO ECHO Field Day Video

Thanks to Frans KJ6IUV for taking video and editing a nice [movie of Field Day activities](#).

Local Radio Activity During National Night Out

Thanks to Tom KN6BUY for raising the idea of making radio contacts during the local National Night Out events on Tues. Aug. 3. David KJ6AAT and Diane KK6RED made contacts with Tom (both ham and GMRS/FRS) from their Night Out location and several other KARO ECHO members were on 146.415 for contacts that night. This is a public demonstration opportunity for radio that we can expand next year. Also, there is a fair amount of simultaneous traffic in other communities, which is a useful learning experience for operating with high demand on the bands, particularly the limited GMRS channels.

Free RF Exposure Calculator

To make it easy for amateurs to evaluate RF exposure, ARRL now provides an [RF exposure calculator](#) on its [RF Exposure page](#). To use the calculator, enter transmitted power and mode, and operating duration. The calculator will give you the minimum distance people must be from your antenna. For instance, the distance is about 6 feet for a typical high gain UHF/VHF rooftop antenna operating at 50W. You can calculate and print the results for your station and keep them in your station records. There is no requirement to send your results to the FCC.

Richmond CERT Wildfire and Zonehaven Presentation

Richmond CERT will be hosting a meeting with the Richmond Fire Marshal speaking about wildfire the Zonehaven evacuation system on Wed. Aug 11 at 6:30pm. [Register through this Eventbrite link](#). El Cerrito and Kensington are using this system and already have [designated zones that can be found here](#).

LOCAL NETS**KARO ECHO NET**

146.415 MHz Simplex

Thursday eve, immediately after the West Contra Costa RACES Net, but never before 1900 hours local time.

West Contra County ACS/RACES Net

145.110 MHz repeater

(TX down 600 with PL 82.5)

Thursday: 1845 local time

Contra Costa County HF EmComm/RACES Net

3893 KHz

Thursday: 1835 local time

American Red Cross of the Bay Area (ARCBA)

WW6BAY Repeater

443.975 MHz

TX +5 MHz, PL 100 Hz

Wednesday: 2000 local time

BOARD OFFICERS

President: Hal KK6NDF

Vice-Pres. and Emer. Coordin.

Howdy KE6BEE

Treasurer: Larry KK6GIO

Secretary: Tom KN6BUY

Outreach/PR Manager:

Blake KN6CMP

Webmaestro: Rob K6RJM

Board members at large:

Don NI6A

Annette, KJ6SWK

What's New *(continued)***Neighborhood nets and Communication Hub Activities**

The first Wednesday of the month has a lot of radio activity in the area.

West county EmComm net out of Richmond at 11 am (starts after the Richmond siren test) FRS/GRMS simplex (on Ch.19, secondary Ch. 17), followed by a ham net on the [WA6KQB 440 repeater](#) with WA6DUR repeater as secondary (see WA6DUR freq. information below)

East Richmond Heights, ham operators check-in at 1845 on Walt's WA6DUR repeater 442.150 +5 offset and PL tone 107.2Hz.

EC4 (central El Cerrito Hills) CERT Net, Ch. 2 (462.5875), at 1845

EC9 (north El Cerrito Hills) CERT Net, Ch. 15 simplex (462.550), at 1900

East Richmond Heights, Ready-2-React Net, Ch. 7 (462.7125), at 1930

EC8 (north El Cerrito) CERT net, Ch.1 (462.5625), at 2000

Ken6 (SW Kensington) CERT net, on first Tuesdays, Ch. 6 (462.6875) at 1900

Richmond simulated EOC net, first Thursdays at 1030, on three simplex frequencies in this order: 147.450, 441.000, 223.400

Albany Radio Net, Wed. (weekly) 1900 on Ch.19 [Albany Radio groups.io](#)

[Coordination of neighborhood FRS/GMRS frequencies can be found here.](#)

License Upgrade

Congratulations to Armando KE6HCE for upgrading his license to General class.

Welcome New Hams

New El Cerrito licenses issued: none in past month

New Kensington licenses issued: none in past month

Action - Contribute to this Newsletter

Content for this newsletter is always welcome. We are seeking submissions for a new free classified section for selling/trading radio equipment/services. Anyone with events or other content suggestions please send them to the newsletter editor Howdy ke6bee@arrl.net

What's New *(continued)*

Welcoming Blake KN6CMP to the KARO ECHO Board

The KARO ECHO Board has appointed Blake KN6CMP to join the Board as the Outreach and PR manager. Annette KJ6SWK will remain on the Board in "at-large" capacity. Thanks to Annette for her work as the previous outreach manager.

ARRL Learning Network Webinars

Visit the [ARRL Learning Network](#) (a members-only benefit) to register, check on upcoming webinars, and to view previously recorded sessions. For instance:

- Introduction to DMR and Digital Voice -- Tim Deagan, KJ8U / Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 3:30 PM EDT (1930 UTC) An introductory overview of digital voice (DV) technologies for ham radio. This presentation will focus on DMR with notes on System Fusion, D-STAR, and more. Included will be a description of DV architecture and components, and the interesting opportunities and challenges that DV presents.

ARRL members may register for upcoming presentations and view previously recorded Learning Network webinars. ARRL-affiliated radio clubs may also use the recordings as presentations for club meetings, mentoring new and current hams, and discussing amateur radio topics.

Zonehaven Interactive Map

Lookup your [Zonehaven evacuation zone here by on this interactive map](#). If you have internet access at the time this map is layers with information about fire events, weather, evacuation orders and other information, but as a matter of preparedness, it is useful to know your zone number so that you will recognize your turn to evacuate when instructions are announced by zone numbers.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report July 2021

Larry Vanselow, KK6GIO, Treasurer

APRIL GENERAL FUND1 Beginning Balance \$1,239.13

Income: December dues payments: n/a

Total General Income: \$0.00

Donations.....\$0

Total General Disbursements \$0.00

Ending Balance \$1,339.17

(Portion as petty cash..... \$0.00)

Thank you to all of the donations and membership payments that support our club.

I know there is a difference in last months balance and this month's balance. I'm try to find out what the discrepancy was.

Activities

Weekly Net Control Rotation

Thanks go out to the volunteer stations who have been taking turns as Net Control Stations (NCS) each Thursday. This rotation has been working very well and everyone has been doing a great job. The regular NCS roster has 9 operators. We have one opening as an opportunity for others to fill in. Please volunteer to give it a try. [Download the new Net Script for NCS operators.](#)

Below are the current scheduled dates for each operator. The [KARO ECHO google calendar](#) also has these assignments and can be found at the bottom of the events page. Add to your electronic calendar By pressing the "+GoogleCalendar" button in the lower right.

Net control is a skill that many operators should have and regularly practice. Please contact Howdy ke6bee@arrl.net if you are interested in taking a net control assignment.

Callsign	Name	Assigned Dates (skipped: 11/26/2020, 11/25/2021, 12/24/2020, 12/31/2020)						
KE6BEE	Howdy Goudey	9/17/2020	11/19/2020	2/11/2021	4/15/2021	6/17/2021	8/19/2021	10/21/2021
KK6NDF	Hal Graboske	9/24/2020	12/3/2020	2/18/2021	4/22/2021	6/24/2021	8/26/2021	10/28/2021
KM6HBO	Jamuel Starkey	10/1/2020	12/10/2020	2/25/2021	4/29/2021	7/1/2021	9/2/2021	11/4/2021
	Open	10/8/2020	12/17/2020	3/4/2021	5/6/2021	7/8/2021	9/9/2021	11/11/2021
K6RJM	Rob McNicholas	10/15/202	1/7/2021	3/11/2021	5/13/2021	7/15/2021	9/16/2021	11/18/2021
KE6HCE	Armando Picciotto	10/22/202	1/14/2021	3/18/2021	5/20/2021	7/22/2021	9/23/2021	12/2/2021
NI6A	Don Simon	10/29/202	1/21/2021	3/25/2021	5/27/2021	7/29/2021	9/30/2021	12/9/2021
KN6CMR	Susan Yeaman	11/5/2020	1/28/2021	4/1/2021	6/3/2021	8/5/2021	10/7/2021	12/16/2021
KK6ZPM	Karen Fenton-Leong	11/12/202	2/4/2021	4/8/2021	6/10/2021	8/12/2021	10/14/2021	12/23/2021

Thursday Net Training Exercises

Following the net check-ins every Thursday at 1900 on 146.415, KARO ECHO usually runs a training exercise to learn and practice skills that are important for successful disaster communications.

[A list of potential training exercises](#) is posted and maintained on the training page of the website.

[A log of our check-in counts can be found here.](#) Howdy KE6BEE typically updates this document in real time during the net, so you can check it against your log during or after the net.

We averaged 21 check-ins/week in 2020 with a high of 28. So far in 2021, we are averaging 20/week with a high of 25. Thanks for your participation. Keep it up!

About KARO ECHO

KARO ECHO is the name of the Kensington Amateur Radio Operators and the El Cerrito Ham Operators mutual benefit association, an all-volunteer non-profit group of amateur radio operators providing auxiliary communications for the cities of Kensington and El Cerrito in the event of a disaster. KARO ECHO works with CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) in Kensington and El Cerrito, but is not an official part of the CERT program.

Monthly in-person meetings of KARO ECHO are on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm, online using Zoom. The next meetings are:

- ♦ Aug 9th, 2021
- ♦ Sept. 13th, 2021

Yearly membership dues are \$30/year for individuals, \$40/year for a family membership. Payments can be given to the Treasurer at monthly meetings or mailed to the address below. Participation is welcome independent of paid membership, but only licensed amateur radio operators who are dues paying KARO ECHO members will be allowed to vote on KARO ECHO business. Dues cover our 510c3 registration, post office box, web page, station operating manuals and more. Your input on useful expenditures to aid emergency communications is welcome.

Mail to: KARO ECHO, PO Box 2025, 6324 Fairmont Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94530-3651

Please see our website for more information: www.karoecho.net

You can contact the KARO ECHO board by email: info@karoecho.net

KARO ECHO Facebook

The [KARO ECHO Group on Facebook](#) has a lot of good information, more than is contained on our website. There is a whole wide world of emergency communications information at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/> Check it out and be inspired of what we can do to help disaster victims in our community.

Weekly Training Net

The Karo-Echo Weekly Training Net meets every Thursday evening immediately after the West Co Co County RACES/ACS Net; but not before 1900 on 146.415 MHz Simplex. Details at <https://www.karoecho.net/events>

KARO-ECHO Frequencies

The KARO ECHO primary frequency is 146.415 MHz simplex. Our secondary frequency is 146.475 MHz simplex, a 60 KHz spread between operating frequencies reduces adjacent frequency interference.

Newsletter Content Wanted

Any input on content you'd like to propose for inclusion in the KARO ECHO newsletter can be sent to Howdy ke6bee@arrl.net We welcome all ideas for content including announcements, events, etc.

Outreach, Education and Licensing

Write-up of message handling exercise

There is a [writeup of a recent messaging exercise](#) on the KARO ECHO website that covers prowords and fills and other guidance for operators when passing written messages.

Local and Online Ham License Classes and Exams

COVID restrictions have changed ham license classes and exams. Many are now offered in distanced/outdoor venues or entirely online. See a [list of opportunities on the KARO ECHO website](#)

Recruiting Additional Communications Coordinators

Read the [Neighborhood District Radio Communications Coordinator \(DRCC\) plan](#) written by Don NI6A.

Training for Beginning Operators

Thanks to Jay KJ6WSS, Edward KM6UBY and Karen KK6ZPM for their May 23rd introductory radio class, with emphasis on the GMRS radio BTECH-V1. [A recording of the class and other resources are available here.](#)

Net Control Operator Training

Diane KK6RED, David KJ6AAT and Howdy KE6BEE taught an Apr 4th net control class for C8 the county wide CERT organization. There was a great reception to this class across the county and we inspired many groups to expand the scope of their net trainings. [The class recording is available here.](#)

EMCOMM related videos

See the CERT SET Youtube video link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66DdgGLIn4c&list=PLROOaUIKdrEgSID1bQJZojW3PzfURoEY-&index=144&t=0s>

Post Camp Fire GMRS organization

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=220&v=aZiSC4sgKYw&feature=emb_logo

ELMERING

An online elmering forum can be accessed by emailing elmer@karoecho.net or browsing the associated google group. More in-depth elmering/mentoring is available by request.

In the meanwhile, please check out the plethora of useful information at <https://www.karoecho.net> website.

Encouragement to Monitor 146.415 and Explore Other Nets

During the current shelter in place, with time spent at home, it is a good opportunity to use your radio and monitor 146.415 (call out for others occasionally and make some casual contacts). There are a lot of other nets around the bay area that you can reach. Expand your radio horizons. See the [KARO ECHO Coordination page](#) for a listing of some other nets to explore. You can just listen at first, or program your radio (if a repeater is used) and try transmitting as a guest check-in to see if you can make contact.

KAROECHO.Net Website

Especially, check out the EVENTS Page (<https://www.karoecho.net/events>) and the WORKSTREAMS drop-down menu which will lead one to an extensive training page that provides online learning at your own pace. Everything from the very beginning to advanced EmComm operations is detailed. The RESOURCE page has many excellent outside links.

- ♦ This [new heading on the Events page](#) will be updated with recent additions to the website.
- ♦ If you are on Facebook, contribute to the KARO ECHO Facebook Group Page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1451216838315743/>
- ♦ If you haven't already filled out the JOIN form please do. Find it as a drop down menu under "Get Involved" See <https://www.karoecho.net/join>
- ♦ A [follow-through novice primer](#) has been put on the website for new hams once they have bought their radio and want to learn more.
- ♦ A [dual-band antenna primer](#) for new hams who want to graduate from the rubber-ducky world
- ♦ Note that the Tram 1480 gain dual band antenna is currently still available for \$51 (no tax and free shipping) on ebay or from Home Depot. That and an inexpensive speaker tripod is a dynamite combination for portable operation. This antenna is equivalent to the Diamond X-200a antenna which sells at HRO for \$125.00 before taxes and shipping.
- ♦ For newbies, please visit <https://www.karoecho.net/workstreams/training> and read the study materials. It is all there except for hands-on experience. Ask questions!
- ♦ Following the Thursday evening net check-in, there is often a training session and/or discussion.
- ♦ All recent KARO ECHO [Minutes will be found at our Past Events page](#) We are now including past Executive Board Minutes as well. [Newsletters are on the Documents Page](#).

If you desire to be removed from this email list, please email info@karoecho.net

Other Resources

"ALERTWildfire" camera links in our area:

[William Rust Summit cam](#)

[Wildcat Canyon cam](#)

[Vollmer Peak cam](#)

[Nichol Knob cam](#)

[View real-time data from any weather station in the state.](#)

[Albany Radio Groups.io forum](#)

[Eastbay Resilience Groups.io forum](#)

[Marina Bay Neighbors and 1st Wed West county GMRS net](#)

Field Day—Preliminary Points Submission

KARO ECHO submitted the following for preliminary Field Day points total:

- 73 contacts (36 CW, 33 GOTA, 3 HF phone and 1 VHF phone) for a total of 218 points with the CW and <150W power bonuses. Two thirds of those points are from the 36 CW (Morse code) contacts because they count as double other contacts.
- Our other bonus points added up nicely with 1330. While we had a modest number of contacts for a 3A operation, a total of 1548 is a reasonable showing (at least eighty 3A entries had fewer points than this in the 2019 Field Day).
- Sorry, the attached screenshot is kind of small and poor resolution, but it itemizes our points a bit more.



2021 Field Day Entry - Confirmation

Congratulations! You've successfully submitted your Field Day entry, as well as uploaded all required documentation. Your confirmation number is: **W6ECK20210726230237**. If you need to update your entry, enter soapbox comments or upload photos of your Field Day activities, please use the appropriate link.

Summary

Entry received at: 2021-07-26 23:02:37 UTC

Submitted by: **Howdy Goudey, KE6BEE**

Call Used: **W6ECK** GOTA Station Call: **W6CUS** ARRL/RAC Section: **EB** Class: **3A**

Participants: **22** Club/Group Name: **KARO-ECHO**

Power Source(s): **Battery, Solar**

Power Multiplier: **2X**

Preliminary Total Score: 1,548

Bonus Points:

Bonus	Points	Status
100% emergency power	300	
Media publicity	100	Documented by KE_FD_PR_sent_to_local_papers.docx
Public location	100	
Public information table	100	Documented by KE_public_info_photo.jpg
Natural power QSOs completed	100	Documented by KE_solar_photo.jpg
Site visit by invited elected official	100	
Site visit by invited served agency	100	
Educational activity	100	
Youth participation (2 x 20, max of 100)	40	
Safety officer	100	Documented by KE_safety_checklist.pdf
Social media	100	
GOTA Station	40	
Entry submitted via web	50	
Total bonus points	1,330	

Score Summary - Cabrillo log/dupe sheet file: W6ECKdupeFD2021.dup

	CW	Digital	Phone	Total
Total QSOs	36	0	37	
Total Points	72	0	37	109

Claimed Score = (QSO points x power mult) = 218

Band/Mode QSO Breakdown:

	CW	Digital	Phone
Band	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs
160m			
80m			
40m			3
20m	36	100	
15m			
10m			
6m			
2m			1
222			
432			
Other			
Satellite			
GOTA			33
Total	36	0	37

GOTA Station: GOTA Coach - Double Bonus Points

KARO ECHO Classifieds

We are soliciting classified ads from KARO ECHO members, and friends, to facilitate gifting, swapping, selling radio gear and/or offering help/services such as loans of special equipment/tools, etc. Please send any content to the newsletter editor, Howdy ke6bee@arrl.net

ARRL license plate frame

\$0.75 for full KARO ECHO members

\$1.50 for others

Proceeds go to KARO ECHO



Free Elmer support for KARO ECHO by Don NI6A. Phone, email and home consultations regarding antennas, SWR, assembly of coax and Anderson power pole connectors, lending of special test equipment, etc. Contact: elmer@karoecho.net for "free advice"

Loaner radios/antennas/meters available for trial/testing, including:

HTs: Baofeng UV5R, UV-82HP, UV82x3 (triband), TYT UV8000E, Alinco DJ-580T, Motorola T200TP (FRS)

mobile: Baofeng UV-25x4, Kenwood TK-880 (GMRS/440), Kenwood TM-741A, Alinco DR-235TmkIII (220)

digital mode: Alinco DJ-MD5TGP (DMR), Baofeng DM-1701 (DMR), **2.4 and 5.8 GHz mesh network nodes**

digital interfaces: [Signalink](#), [Mobilinkd](#), [TNC-Pi](#)

meters: Surecom SW-102 digital SWR/power meter

Contact: Howdy ke6bee@arrl.net

Available for free: B&K Precision 2120B oscilloscope - 20MHz bandwidth, dual trace, triggered sweep. Contact Tom, KN6BUY, at tfat@sbcglobal.net

Chirp Elmering HELP WANTED: Edward KM6UBY [posted instructions on the Marina Bay Neighbors training website](#) to use CHIRP to load Jay's KJ6WSS WCC memory program of .img or .csv files for a variety of ham radios and the GMRS V1 radio. I hope to find Elmers located throughout WCC to direct the new recruits for help programming their radios. Anyone interested in helping, please contact me directly. Karen KK6ZPM